

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A device for simulating slip of a wheel on a vehicle test bench according to the equation  $F_R = F_A \times C$ , wherein  $F_R$  is a frictional force,  $F_A$  is a contact force of the wheel, and  $C$  is a coefficient of friction, the device comprising:

a movable test surface to simulate rolling conditions of a wheel which contacts said test surface with a contact force  $F_A$ ;

a lifting and lowering device means for changing the contact force  $F_A$  in a predetermined manner; and

a wheel adapter operable to couple said lifting and lowering device means for changing the contact force  $F_A$  to said wheel while the wheel is mounted on a vehicle and so as to rotate with said wheel relative to said means lifting and lowering device, whereby said wheel is tested in a mounted location on the vehicle;

a bearing unit rotatable about a pivot axis extending transversely to an axis of rotation of the wheel adapter so as to change the track of the wheel, the wheel adapter being rotatably arranged in and coupled to the bearing unit;

a mount pivotably mounted to joint blocks;

a plurality of connecting arms connecting the bearing unit to the mount, said lifting and lowering device comprising

linear drives for lifting and lowering the joint blocks in linear guides in a predetermined way;

a supporting block on which the linear guides and the linear drives are arranged; and

a base plate for attaching the supporting block to an underlying surface.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 2, wherein the lifting and lowering device can vertically adjust a hub of the wheel while the wheel is rotating.

4. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 2, wherein the lifting and lowering device holds the wheel with a holding force and is controllable by one of hydraulic pressure, electrical signals, and linear motors, the device for simulating slip further comprising means for measuring the holding force, whereby the holding force can be used to determine the contact force.

5. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 2, wherein the lifting and lowering device can follow a tracking/steering angle and a kingpin angle of the wheel, whereby the lifting and lowering device can secure the wheel in a direction transverse to the direction of travel.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 1, further comprising means for changing the coefficient of friction.

8. (original) The device for simulating slip of claim 7, wherein the means for changing the coefficient of friction comprise a nozzle for introducing water between the wheel and the surface of the test device.

9. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 2, further comprising a controller for controlling the lifting and lowering device, the controller being integrated into a controller of the vehicle test bench.

10. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 2, further comprising a plurality of lifting and lowering devices for respective wheels, and a controller for connecting the lifting and lowering devices.

11. (original) A method of simulating slip of a wheel on a vehicle test bench comprising a movable test surface for simulating rolling conditions of a wheel which contacts said surface with a contact force  $F_A$ , said method comprising displacing the contact force  $F_A$  from the wheel to a lifting device in a predetermined way by lifting the wheel off the surface as the wheel rotates.

12. (previously presented) The method of simulating slip of claim 11, further comprising:

completely displacing the contact force  $F_A$  from the surface to said lifting device by lifting the wheel completely off the surface;

determining the absolute value of the contact force  $F_A$  by means of a measuring device while said wheel is completely off said surface;

determining a maximum traction force  $F_Z$  which can be transmitted to the surface based on said absolute value;

calculating a coefficient of friction  $C$  with the equation  $F_Z = F_A \times C$ , where  $F_A$  is the absolute value; and

setting the friction force  $F_R$  according to the equation  $F_R = F_A \times C$  by controlling the contact force  $F_A$ .

13. (previously presented) The method of simulating slip of claim 12, wherein said maximum tractive force  $F_Z$  is changed in accordance with a predefined test program.

14. (previously presented) The method of simulating slip of claim 12, wherein said coefficient of friction is changed in accordance with a predefined test program.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A device for simulating slip of a wheel on a vehicle test bench according to the equation  $F_R = F_A \times C$ , wherein  $F_R$  is a frictional force,  $F_A$  is a contact force of the wheel, and  $C$  is a coefficient of friction, the device comprising:

a movable test surface to simulate rolling conditions of a wheel which contacts said test surface with a contact force  $F_A$ ;

means for changing the contact force  $F_A$  in a predetermined manner; and

means for changing the coefficient of friction;

a wheel adapter operable to couple said means for changing the contact force  $F_A$  to said wheel while the wheel is mounted on a vehicle and so as to rotate with said wheel relative to said means for changing the contact force  $F_A$ , whereby said wheel is tested in a mounted location on the vehicle; and

a bearing unit rotatable about a pivot axis extending transversely to an axis of rotation of the wheel adapter so as to change the track of the wheel, the wheel adapter being rotatably arranged in and coupled to the bearing unit, said means for changing the contact force  $F_A$  comprising means for lifting and lowering said bearing unit.

17. (previously presented) The device for simulating slip of claim 16, wherein the means for changing the coefficient of friction comprise a nozzle for introducing water between the wheel and the surface of the test device.